

Appendix

Department of Commerce Building

Factors of Interest to Visitors

BASEMENT, CENTER SECTION—

1. A modern AQUARIUM, maintained by the Bureau of Fisheries, United States Department of the Interior, is located directly under the Lobby of the main entrance to the building. It occupies a space 128 feet long by 48 feet wide, in which are contained 48 display tanks, ranging in length from 3 to 10 feet, and 3 small floor pools. These tanks contain a great variety of fishes, alligators, frogs, turtles, etc., that are common to the waters of the United States. The Aquarium is open to visitors daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

2. A CAFETERIA for the employees of the Department, with a seating capacity of 900, is located in the central part of the basement.

FIRST FLOOR, CENTER SECTION—

3. In the southeast corner of the LOBBY, at the main entrance on Fourteenth Street, there is an Information Desk, with attendant in charge during working hours.

A number of exhibits typical of the Department's activities are on display in the Lobby.

4. Immediately west of the Lobby is provided a modern CONFERENCE ROOM with a seating capacity of 850 persons. This room is designed to care for large groups of American business representatives who come in contact with the Department on major questions of industry and commerce.

FIRST FLOOR, NORTH SECTION—

5. The SEARCH ROOM of the Patent Office occupies almost the entire north front of the building on the first floor. It has a floor area of 14,300 square feet, on which are provided desks and chairs to accommodate patent attorneys, inventors, and any part of the general public who may be interested in studying the more than 2,000,000 United States patents available to visitors to this room.

6. The SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY, just south of the Search Room, is fronted by a very attractive Reading Room. This Library occupies 30,600 square feet of floor space and contains more than 34,000 technical and miscellaneous publications and approximately 37,000 bound periodicals.

There are available in the Search Room and Scientific Library for the use of inventors and their attorneys approximately 8,000,000 United States and foreign patents.

SECOND FLOOR, CENTER SECTION—

7. A list of the publications issued by the Department of Commerce that are currently available may be obtained without cost, from the Division of Publications, Room 2065. Many of the publications so listed are available in that office at a nominal cost price.

SECOND FLOOR, SOUTH SECTION—

8. Located in Room 2807 is a TIDE PREDICTING MACHINE, designed and constructed wholly by employees of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. This machine is used in predicting the tides for any desired place where tides occur and for any future time that may be desired.

9. An ACCELEROMETER for recording strong earth motions is located in Room 2014. This equipment is used for making automatic records, at place of installation, of earth motions that occur during an earthquake. This instrument is set up on a shaking table which simulates the motions of an earthquake.

FIFTH FLOOR, CENTER SECTION—

10. The WAITING ROOM, just east of the entrances to the offices of the Secretary of Commerce, the Under Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, and the Solicitor for the Department, is a development of outstanding interest to visitors

generally. Contained also in this room are two exhibits worthy of attention:

- (a) A case containing facsimiles of the STAND-AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, representing the legal requirements in all commercial transactions in the United States.
- (b) Of casual interest to the visitor is a case containing a display of MINERAL RAW MATERIALS, and the fabricated products derived from them, that were utilized in the construction of the new Commerce Building.

SEVENTH FLOOR, CENTER SECTION—

11. Located on the seventh floor in the central section and facing Fourteenth Street is the consolidated DEPARTMENT LIBRARY. A feature of this Library is the stack room, which is over 300 feet long and contains two hundred and fifty-four 15-foot book stacks. The Library now houses more than 200,000 publications, comprising a collection of statistical, economic, scientific, and technical information of great value.

FACTS REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUILDING

The building covers an area of approximately 8 acres—3 full city blocks.

Its length is 1,050 feet; width, 325 feet; height, 7 stories and basement, and a subbasement for boiler rooms.

It contains 27,159,045 cubic feet.

The total gross floor area is 1,605,066 square feet.

The next floor area, including offices, laboratories, shops, etc., is 1,092,800 square feet.

There are 3,311 rooms.

There are 5,200 windows, containing 250,000 square feet of glass.

Electric outlets for telephones, power, signals, electric lights, etc., to the number of 31,000 have been provided.

There are 15 entrances to the building.

There are 27 passenger and 5 freight elevators, the passenger cars having a capacity of 18 passengers per car.

The building is heated from the Government Central Heating Plant.

The basement floor in some places is approximately 3 feet thick to withstand the pressure of water of Tiber Creek, which flows under the building.

MATERIALS USED IN CONSTRUCTION—

Structural steel: 16,400 tons.

Limestone, from Indiana: 2,000 carloads.

Granite quarried in Connecticut, sawed, cut, and milled in Massachusetts: 150 carloads.

Marble, from Missouri: 900 tons.

Base marble, from Vermont: 470 tons.

Mankato stone, from Minnesota: 860 tons.

Smaller quantities of domestic travertine from Colorado and Georgia, of which 500 tons of travertine chips from Georgia were used for terrazzo floors.

Cafeteria, serving rooms, and kitchen floors; tile from West Virginia: 35 tons.

Toilet rooms, wall and floor tile, from Ohio: 300 tons.

Common brick, from the District of Columbia: 10,000,000.

Face brick, from Pennsylvania: 1,500,000.

Gray brick for boiler room, from Pennsylvania: 200,000.

Terra cotta, from North Carolina and West Virginia: 27,000 tons.

Reinforced concrete piling supporting the building: 80 miles or 14,000 piles.

Plastering on walls and ceilings: 99 acres.

Base of building, up to sill of first-floor windows, is of granite; balance of walls is of Indiana limestone, except four courts of brick.

Roof: 95,000 square feet, or 400 tons of promenade tile, and 160,000 square feet, or 1,200 tons of Mission tile. Two tons of copper nails were used in the roof.

Bronze hardware used: 25 tons.

INSCRIPTIONS ON BUILDING—

Constitution Avenue facade.—"The Department of Commerce assembles here the forces designed by Congress to advance the interests of industry and trade. Through experimental research, the dissemination of knowledge, and administrative vigilance it stimulates the progress of America upon land and sea and in the air and thereby speeds the Nation in the march of mankind."

Pennsylvania Avenue facade.—"Based upon foundations of devotion and labor the United States is enriched by other golden threads in the genius of its people. Inventive daring illumines their diligence. Adventurous ardor invigorates the work of their hands. Under Governmental guardianship their ideas and their activities are assured the liberty that is the soul of achievement."

Fourteenth Street facade.—"The inspiration that guided our forefathers led them to secure above all things the unity of our country. We rest upon government by consent of the governed and the

political order of the United States is the expression of a patriotic ideal which welds together all the elements of our national energy promoting the organization that fosters individual initiative. Within this edifice are established agencies that have been created to buttress the life of the people, to clarify their problems and coordinate their resources, seeking to lighten burdens without lessening the responsibility of the citizen. In serving one and all they are dedicated to the purpose of the founders and other highest hopes of the future with their loyal administration given to the integrity and welfare of the Nation."

Fifteenth Street entrance, north section. "The patent system added the fuel of interest to the fire of genius."—Lincoln.

Fifteenth Street, north entrance, center section.—"Commerce defies every wind, outrides every tempest, and invades every zone."—Bancroft.

Fifteenth Street, south entrance, center section.—"Commerce among nations should be fair and equitable."—Franklin.

Fifteenth Street entrance, south section.—"Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair."—Washington.

WASHINGTON, January 1, 1946.

[illegible]

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1945-662979